(c) to (e) The Government intends to formulate a regulatory framework on foreign education providers in consultation with all stake-holders at the earliest possible.

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1233. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2702, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 2005 and state:

whether Government are aware of the advertisements issued in print media on 19th September, 2005 by the Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi regarding admission to its management training programme for award of MBA Degree; and

if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to sensitize the public about the correct position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi is not approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the statutory body empowered to grant approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses or programmes. The AICTE has issued a notification in leading newspapers on November 30, 2005 stating under 'mandatory approval requirements' that AICTE will take legal action against such institutions as are not approved by AICTE and are conducting courses/ programmes in technical education as defined under the AICTE Act, 1987 without prior approval of AICTE.

India's ranking in UN Human Development Report

1234. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether as per U.N. Human Development Report 2005, India is at 127th position out of 177 countries in Human Development Index whereas China is ranked 85th position;

if so, the reasons for such low ranking; and

the steps being taken to improve the ranking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the UNDP's Human Development Report 2005, the life expectancy index of India is 0.64, the education index is 0.61 and the GDP index is 0.56. Since, these are on the lower side among the countries considered in the UNDP's Human Development Report, India's overall index is also low. In order to improve the living condition of people, the Xth Plan has suggested a number measures which include greater public investment in education, health, improving allocating efficiency of resources, improving infrastructure sector like power, roads, improving governance and enhancing efficiency of delivery system etc. Specially Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and all comprehensive programme launched in 2001 -02, is the main vehicle for achieving the goals of Universal Elementary Education. The mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS) has been revised and universalized at primary level from 1st September 2004. In addition to providing free food-grains to the State Governments, the Central Government also provides for converting foodgrains into cooked meals for 200 days in a year. The Plan of action of the Government to improve the various aspects of human development has been incorporated in the Xth Plan and the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan.

Casteism in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1235. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether the Government of Maharashtra, during the year 2003-04, drew attention to the criticism invited by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan under which free text books were supplied to the boys and girls on caste basis and the inferiority complex created thereby among the deprived students of other castes and the feelings of casteism created thereby among the students;

whether the State Government has demanded free supply of text books to the deprived students of all castes and religions;

if so, Government's reaction thereto and decision thereon; and

whether the State Government's suggestion has been turned down and if so, the reasons therefor?